

Remarks

Claims 1-72 were pending in this application.

Claims 1-20, 32-35, 44-47, and 67-72 have been withdrawn from consideration, without prejudice or disclaimer, as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Claims 21-31, 36-41, and 48-64 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No claims have been amended.

Claims 42, 43, 65, and 66 are allowed.

New allowable claims 73-98 have been added, of which claims 73, 78, 83, 87, 91, 93, and 97 are independent. No new matter has been added. Support for these new allowable claims can be found throughout the application as filed, including the original claims.

Election/Restriction Requirement

Restriction of claims 1-72 has been indicated. Claims 1-72 have been restricted into the invention of Group I (claims 1-20, 32-35, 44-47, and 67-72); drawn a system for storing fluid and/or water and/or treating water, and the invention of Group II (claims 21-31-36-43, and 48-66); drawn to a method of treating water.

Applicants confirm the provisional election, without traverse, to prosecute the invention of Group II, claims 21-31, 36-43, and 48-66. Claims 1-20, 32-35, 44-47, and 67-72 are withdrawn from consideration, without prejudice or disclaimer, as being drawn to a non-elected invention.

Requirement for Formal Drawings

New corrected drawings in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(d) have been required because the drawings filed on November 13, 2003 are informal.

Formal drawings that replace the previously-filed informal drawings accompany this Response. Therefore, the requirement for formal drawings has been fulfilled.

Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the requirement.

Objection for Informalities

Dependent claim 41 stands objected to for informalities because of a typographical error.

Dependent claim 41 has been cancelled and rewritten in independent form as new independent claim 87. No new matter has been added to correct this obvious typographical error. Therefore, the objection has been rendered moot.

Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 36 and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the teaching of Baker et al. in U.S. Patent No. Re 36,972.

Claims 48-50, 54, and 55 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the teaching of Story in U.S. Patent No. 6,146,524 (hereinafter “Story”). Claims 56-59 and 61 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the teaching of Story.

Claims 48-55 further stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the teaching of Srinivasan et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,808,608 (hereinafter “Srinivasan et al.”).

Claims 56 and 59-61 also stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by the teaching of Srinivasan et al.

Claim 62 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the teaching of Lee in U.S. Patent No. 6,190,553.

Claims 36, 39, and 48-62 are canceled. Therefore the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 has been rendered moot.

Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 21-27, 30, and 31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the teaching of Bauman in U.S. Patent No. 3,630,378 in view of the teaching of Takeda et al. in U.S. Patent No. 6,783,666.

As noted, claims 21-27, 30, and 31 are cancelled. Therefore the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 has been rendered moot.

Accordingly, Applicants request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Allowable Subject Matter

Independent claims 42, 43, and 65 as well as dependent claim 66 are allowed.

Dependent claim 28 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations recited in claims 21, 26, and 27.

Dependent claim 28 is canceled in favor of new independent claim 73, which includes all the limitations recited in previously pending independent claim 21 and dependent claims 26, 27, and 28.

Accordingly, independent claim 73 is allowable. New dependent claims 74-77 depend from independent claim 73; each of these claims is likewise allowable for at least the same reasons.

Dependent claim 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of claims 21, 26, and 27.

Dependent claim 29 is canceled in favor of new independent claim 78, which includes all the limitations recited in previously pending independent claim 21 and dependent claims 26, 27, and 29.

Accordingly, independent claim 78 is allowable. New dependent claims 79-82 depend from independent claim 78; each of these claims is likewise allowable for at least the same reasons.

Dependent claim 37 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of claim 36.

Dependent claim 37 is canceled in favor of new independent claim 83, which includes all the limitations recited in previously pending independent claim 36 and dependent claim 37.

Accordingly, independent claim 83 is allowable. New dependent claims 84-86 depend from independent claim 83; each of these claims is likewise allowable for at least the same reasons.

Dependent claim 38 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of claim 36.

Dependent claim 38 is canceled in favor of new independent claim 87, which includes all the limitations recited in previously pending independent claim 36 and dependent claim 38.

Accordingly, independent claim 87 is allowable. New dependent claims 88-90 depend from independent claim 87; each of these claims is likewise allowable for at least the same reasons.

Dependent claim 40 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of claim 36.

Dependent claim 40 is canceled in favor of new independent claim 91, which includes all the limitations recited in previously pending independent claim 36 and dependent claim 40.

Accordingly, independent claim 91 is allowable. New dependent claim 92, which depends from independent claim 91, is likewise allowable for at least the same reasons.

Dependent claim 41 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of claim 36.

Dependent claim 41 is canceled in favor of new independent claim 93, which includes all the limitations recited in previously pending independent claim 36 and dependent claim 41.

Accordingly, independent claim 93 is allowable. New dependent claims 94-96 depend from independent claim 93; each of these claims is likewise allowable for at least the same reasons.

Dependent claims 63 and 64 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations recited in independent claim 62.

Dependent claim 63 is canceled in favor of new independent claim 97, which includes all the limitations recited in previously pending independent claim 62 and dependent claim 63.

Accordingly, independent claim 97 is allowable.

Dependent claim 64 has been cancelled in favor of new dependent claim 98, which depends from allowable independent claim 97. This claim is also allowable.

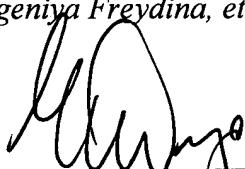
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing Amendments and Remarks, reconsideration is respectfully requested.

This application is in condition for allowance and a notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this Response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicants hereby request any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this Response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50/0214.

Respectfully submitted,
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